

## **CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER THE REPORT ON THE POTENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR SMALL OFF-ROAD ENGINES**

The Air Resources Board (the Board or ARB) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider the report on the potential electrification programs for small off-road engines.

DATE: April 22, 2004

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., April 22, 2004, and will continue at 8:30 a.m., April 23, 2004. This item may not be considered until April 23, 2004. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before April 22, 2004, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

If you have special accommodation or language needs, please contact ARB's Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594 or [landreon@arb.ca.gov](mailto:landreon@arb.ca.gov) as soon as possible.

TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

### **Background**

The ARB's major goal is to provide clean, healthful air to all citizens of California. To address California's acute air quality problems, the federal Clean Air Act granted California the unique authority to adopt and enforce rules to control mobile source emissions within California. The California Clean Air Act requires the ARB to achieve the maximum degree of emission reductions possible from vehicular and other mobile sources in order to attain the ambient air quality standards by the earliest practicable date. The 2003 State and Federal Strategy for the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) contains specific control measures aimed at reducing emissions from off-road equipment.

In September 2003, the Board approved more stringent exhaust emission standards and new evaporative emission standards for small off-road spark-ignition engines and equipment less than or equal to 19 kilowatts (kW). This category includes handheld and nonhandheld lawn and garden and industrial equipment such as string trimmers, leaf blowers, walk-behind lawn mowers, generators, and lawn tractors. At the September 2003 hearing, the Board also directed staff to evaluate the potential for increasing the use of electricity powered equipment in the small off-road category.

## Summary of Report

Many types of lawn and garden equipment have electric-powered counterparts, which have no direct fuel and no exhaust emissions. Most of the electric units currently available are the small, lower weight and lower cost units primarily used in the residential market. Residential string trimmers, hedge trimmers, non-backpack blowers, mowers, and small chain saws may be converted to electric as evidenced by the great number of electric models already available.

In its report, the staff will present to the Board its assessment of the potential for increasing the electrification of the small off-road engine category. The report will focus on several strategies suggested by air pollution control districts, environmental groups, and industry. Staff has ranked and discussed them according to their cost, benefit, ease of implementation, and enforcement. We are confident that the penetration of electric equipment into the small off-road category will naturally continue to increase as zero emission technologies improve. In addition, electric equipment will remain a viable option for consumers as modest price increases occur for gasoline-powered equipment in meeting increasingly stringent emission standards.

ARB staff will present a written report or oral statements at the meeting. Copies of the report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 "I" Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 322-2990, April 12, 2004. The report will also be available on the ARB internet site shortly at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/offroad/sore/sore.htm>

Interested members of the public may also present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by e-mail before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments submissions not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, April 21, 2004**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail is to be sent to:

Clerk of the Board  
Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic mail is to be sent to [elecsore@listserv.arb.ca.gov](mailto:elecsore@listserv.arb.ca.gov) and received at the ARB **no later than 12:00 noon, April 21, 2004**.

Facsimile submissions are to be transmitted to the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-3928 and received at the ARB **no later than 12:00 noon April 21, 2004**.

The Board requests, but does not require 30 copies of any written submission. Also, the ARB requests that written and e-mail statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Ms. Jackie Lourenco, Manager, Off-Road Controls Section, at (626) 575-6676, or at [jlourenc@arb.ca.gov](mailto:jlourenc@arb.ca.gov).

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Catherine Witherspoon  
Executive Officer

Date:

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov).*